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Ministry of Forests and Range

PROVINCE INVESTS ALMOST $4 MILLION IN NORTHWEST FORESTS

VICTORIA – A $3.9 million silviculture investment will assist the Northwest forest industry, Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman announced today.

"By investing today, we hope to harvest second-growth forests 10 to 25 years sooner than we do now," said Coleman. "The Northwest forest economy has a bright future and this funding will help create jobs for local contractors."

The province is investing $1.3 million per year for three years to enhance timber growth, increase stand value and shorten the harvesting rotation in forests located south of Prince Rupert, to Alaska in the north, and Hazelton in the east.

Foresters will prepare stand management plans and determine where spacing treatments will be conducted on approximately 2,400 hectares over the next three years. Silviculture contracts for the 2007 activities will be advertised and awarded in the coming weeks.

Northwest trees are mainly hemlock, balsam, spruce and cedar, and are unaffected by the mountain pine beetle, which attacks lodgepole pine. These second-growth trees will be available for harvesting as the timber supply in the Interior declines.

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